

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Church of the Living God Inventory Number: B-5253
Address: 2402 W. Fayette Street Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21223 County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
Property Owner: The Church of the Living God Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000 Tax Map Number: 0020
Project: West Baltimore MARC Station Agency: Maryland Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Sarah Traum Date Prepared: 7/13/2012
Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Library Maryland Room; Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP)
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Church of the Living God The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Which He Purchased With His Own Blood, Inc. (Church of the Living God) is located at 2402 West Fayette Street in the West Baltimore area of Baltimore City. The property is bounded on the north and east by rowhouses lining West Lexington Street and Wheeler Avenue. Light industrial and commercial buildings are found south and west of this property. This building faces south toward West Fayette Street. A small grassy lawn is found between the sidewalk along West Fayette Street and the building façade. A concrete sidewalk connects the public sidewalk to the main entry. An asphalt-paved parking lot is located immediately east of the building. A chain-link fence surrounds this parking lot.

The one-story tall Church of the Living God has a rectangular plan and simple architectural detail. It stands on a high, parged foundation. The structure is concrete block, which is clad in stretcher bond brick on the façade and southern portions of the side elevations. The building has a flat roof with a brick-clad parapet across the façade. A false gable rises above this parapet. The building measures three bays wide and five bays deep.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Verhulst ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Canty
Reviewer, National Register Program

9/11/12
Date

9/11/12
Date

201203704

The primary entrance into the building is centered on the façade. This entrance features a modern metal panel door with fanlight set within a poured concrete frame with incised panels. The windows on the façade and southern (brick-clad) portions of the side elevations are grouped windows (groups of three on the façade and groups of four on the side elevations). These windows have awning sashes and are painted glass. A rowlock belt course forms a lintel under the windows. A lighted cross is located on the southwest corner of the façade. The northern (exposed concrete block) portion of the east elevation has six-light hopper sash with concrete lintels. The northern (exposed concrete block) portion of the west elevation has an irregular fenestration pattern including three six-light, hopper sash with concrete lintels and two plate glass doors. These doors are accessed by poured concrete steps with decorative iron railings and are sheltered by metal awnings. The rear, north, elevation features a loading dock with two metal slab doors.

Historic Context

The building at 2402 West Fayette Street was built in 1950 as a commercial building (MD SDAT 2012). It was commissioned by the Grinnell Company as an office and storage building designed by the Baltimore architect Lucius R. White. This building was built at a cost of \$25,000 (Williams 1950:A35).

This building is not depicted on the 1951 Sanborn map of Baltimore, indicating that it was likely constructed later in that year. The first documentation found for a building at this address is the 1952 city directories. This lists the Grinnell Co. as occupying this building. This company specialized in automatic sprinklers. The Grinnell Company continues to be listed as the occupant of 2402 West Fayette Street through the 1972 city directory (C&PT 152-1972). The 1974 directory lists Maryland Parcel Service and Baltimore Delivery & Messenger Service as the occupants of the building. The 1975 directory documents the change in use of the building from commercial to religious as in this year the building is listed as occupied by the Church of the Living God, the current owner (Stewart 1974-2004).

Lucius R. White was a prominent Baltimore architect of the early twentieth century. He received a degree from the University of Pennsylvania and was partner with Otto Simonson, and Edward White, as well as having his own practice from 1923-1945. Mr. White served as president of the Baltimore chapter of the AIA in 1945 (Belfoure 2004:94). Besides the building at 2402 West Fayette, commissioned late in his career, Mr. White also designed the Crown Cork and Seal Company; Loyola University's Gymnasium and Library, the Infirmary Building at the New Baltimore City Jail, Court Square Building, and Bachrach Studios (Radoff 1956:1426-1427).

Significance Evaluation

The Church of the Living God was evaluated for significance under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C, using the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation." This property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of the present assessment. It was evaluated against Criteria Consideration A, as it is presently owned by a religious institution and used for religious services.

The Church of the Living God was built in 1950 as a commercial building. It served this function until the mid-1970s when it was converted to religious usage. This building reflects the commercial growth of Baltimore in the mid-twentieth century, but lacks a significant association with mid-twentieth century commercial development in the City of Baltimore. Therefore, this property is not eligible under Criterion A.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

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Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Research has not shown that the property is associated with the lives of individuals significant in the past. Therefore, this property is not eligible under Criterion B.

The Church of the Living God was built in 1950 as a commercial building. The rectangular form, one-story height, masonry construction, and flat roof reflect this original purpose. The renovation of the building that accompanied the change from commercial to religious usage, including changes to the fenestration pattern and the façade, is a significant loss of integrity. This property is not distinctive enough to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction. This building does not possess high artistic values. Therefore, this property is not eligible under Criterion C.

The Church of the Living God does not meet Criteria Consideration A because it is not significant for its architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.

Based on the evaluated criteria, the Church of the Living God is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Works Consulted

Belfoure, Charles

2004 AIA Baltimore: A Chapter History from 1870 to 2005. AIA Baltimore, Baltimore, MD.

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland (C&PT)

1952 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1954 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1956 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1958 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1960 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1961 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1962 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1964 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1966 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1972 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (MD SDAT)

2012 Baltimore City, Real Property Database.

http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/searchtype.aspx?County=03&SearchType=street. Accessed July 2, 2012.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Radoff, Morris L.

1956 Library of American Lives The Old Line State: A History of Maryland. Historical Record Association, Baltimore, MD.

Stewart Directories

1974 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1975 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1976 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1978 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1980 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1983 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1985 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1990 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

1995 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

2000 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

2002 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

2004 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

Williams, Carroll E.

1950 Real Estate News. Baltimore Sun. December 3:A35.

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Church of the Living God (B-5253)
2402 West Fayette Street
Baltimore City, MD
Baltimore City Parcels



Church of the Living God (B-5253)
2402 West Fayette Street
Baltimore City, MD
USGS Baltimore West Quad, 1974



PHOTO LOG

B-5253, Church of the Living God, 2402 West Fayette Street

B-5253_2012-06-05_01

South and west elevations, view to northeast

B-5253_2012-06-05_02

South and east elevations, view to northwest

B-5253_2012-06-05_03

Façade, view to northeast

B-5253_2012-06-05_04

West elevation, view to southeast

B-5253_2012-06-05_05

North elevation, view to southeast

HP Viverra ink on HP glossy premium plus photo paper. CD-R Gold.



B-5253

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, 2402 W FAYETTE ST
CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

MD SADO

SOUTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS VIEW TO NORTH EAST

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B-5253-2012-06-05-01



B-5253

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD 2402 W FAYETTE ST
CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

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SOUTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS VIEW TO NORTH VIEW

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B-5253-2012-06-05-02



B-5253

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, 2402 W FAYETTE ST

CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

FACADE, VIEW TO NORTHEAST

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B-5253

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, 2402 W FAYETTE ST

CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST

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B-5253-2012-06-05-01



B-5253

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, 2402 W FAYETTE ST.

CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

NORTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST

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